[26th November 1948

Census of tappers thrown out of employment.

* 152 Q.—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Firka Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether a census of tappers, even approximate, thrown out of employment on account of the introduction of prohibition has been taken in each district where prohibition is in force;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what the number is (districtwar).

(c) what steps have been taken in each district to rehabilitate the ex-tappers and others till now engaged and employed in liquor trade; and

(d) whether the Government propose to issue a complete statement on the subject?

The Hon. Dr. S. GURUBATHAM :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Approximate number of tappers thrown out of employment in the districts in which prohibition was introduced in 1946 and 1947 is furnished below : —

North Arcot	..	**1,085**	**Tanjore**	..	**11,600**
Cuddapah	..	**355**	**Tiruchirappalli**	..	**1,791**
Anantapur	..	**693**	**Madura**	..	**1,576**
Chittoor	..	**398**	**Malabar**	..	**28,489**
Bellary	..	**440**	**South Kanara**	..	**9,789**
Kurnool	..	**2,462**	**Nellore**	..	**2,465**
Salem	..	**2,069**	**Guntur**	..	**2,930**
Coimbatore	..	**13,500**			

" (c) Co-operative societies for the manufacture of jaggery have been formed in order to provide employment to ex-tappers. Till the end of July 1948, 486 jaggery manufacturing societies were organized with a membership of 36,882. Steps have also been taken to assist the ex-tappers to follow other avocations by forming themselves into milk-supply co-operative societies, weavers' co-operative societies, land colonization societies and similar other co-operative societies. They have also been encouraged to take up agricultural work.

" As regards persons other than ex-tappers, orders have been issued that deserving ex-abkari contractors who are thrown out of employment due to the introduction of prohibition may be exempted from the rule regarding the previous standing in foodgrains business for the purpose of granting licences under the Madras Foodgrains Control Order, 1943.

" (d) Press notes are being issued by the Government on the working of prohibition every month showing also the steps taken to provide employment to ex-tappers. It is, therefore, not proposed to issue a further statement on the subject."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I am aware, Sir, that press statements are issued. Even last night I received one. But we would like to have an overall picture of the present condition of the ex-tappers."

" THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" It is too early, Sir, to give an overall picture because we introduced Prohibition throughout the whole of the Province only on the 2nd October 1948. It will take a month or more to give an overall picture."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, how many of these ex-tappers in each district have been absorbed in the co-operative societies or colonization societies? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" As I have stated in in the answer, Sir, 36,882 ex-tappers have been absorbed in the jaggery manufacturing societies. If the hon. Member wants more details, I should like to have notice, Sir."

K. T. M. AHAMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the figures include the sweet toddy tappers also who have been thrown out of employment? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" Yes, Sir, the figures include both sweet toddy tappers as well as toddy tappers."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know the reason why the numbers of ex-tappers vary so greatly between district and district? For instance, in Salem it is supposed to be 2,000 and odd whereas in Coimbatore it is about 13,000 and odd, although the population in the Salem and the Coimbatore districts are approximately the same? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" That is due to the number of trees that are available for tapping, Sir."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether any of these ex-tappers have been absorbed as constables in the City or elsewhere? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" A few have been admitted as constables, Sir."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, whether jaggery manufacturing societies have been started in the Ceded districts? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, if any of the ex-tappers have been absorbed in the Government Bus Transport as conductors or in similar appointments? "

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."